

Message Text

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12

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S E C R E T CAIRO 10442

E.O. 11652: 31 DEC 83

TAGS: MASS EG

SUBJECT: COMPLETION OF NIMBUS STREAM

REF CAIRO 10159

1. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL, CAPTAIN STRATMANN, COMMANDER TASK FORCE SIXTY-FIVE, ACCCOMPANIED BY CAPTAIN BLOCK, NAVAL ATTACHE TO CAIRO, CALLED UPON VICE ADMIRAL FOUD ZIKRY, COMMANDER IN CHIEF EGYPTIAN NAVY ON 12 OCTOBER 1975 TO PRESENT
A STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE NIMBUS STREAM OPERATION WHICH WAS CONCLUDED ON 10 OCTOBER. THE STATISTICAL SUMMARY, SIGNED BY CAPT STRATMANN, DESCRIBED THE SPECIFIC MINE-SWEEPING COVERAGE ATTAINED IN EACH OF THE FIVE EGYPTIAN MINE-FIELDS SWEPT DURING NIMBUS STREAM. THE SUMMARY NOTED THAT EACH OF THE FIVE MINEFIELDS WAS SWEPT IN ITS ENTIRETY TO 99 (NINETY-NINE) PERCENT PROBABILITY OF MINE ACTUATION (THAT IS TO SAY 99 PERCENT ASSURANCE THAT ANY LIVE MINES PRESENT WOULD HAVE BEEN ACTUATED). IN ADDITION, APPROXIMATELY 150 SQUARE MILES OF AREA OUTSIDE THE ESTABLISHED MINEFIELDS WERE SWEPT TO ENSURE THAT NO LIVE MINES HAD ACCIDENTLY BEEN PLANTED OUTSIDE THE DEFINED MINEFIELD BOUNDARIES.

2. AS DEPT IS AWARE, THERE WERE NO RPT NO DETONATIONS OF MINES

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DURING OPERATION NIMBUS STREAM WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO TEST

MINES WHICH WERE SET AND PLANTED BY THE EGYPTIAN NAVY AND SUCCESSFULLY DETONATED BY TASK FORCE 65 MINESWEEPING HELICOPTERS AS A TEST AND DEMONSTRATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MINESWEEPING SYSTEMS IN USE. WE HAVE, FRANKLY, BEEN UNEASY BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF DETONATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE SINKING OF THE AMERICAN RESEARCH VESSEL NECHES IN ONE OF THE MINEFIELDS LAST JULY. WE ACCEPT, HOWEVER, THE ASSURANCES OF COGNIZANT OPERATIONAL COMMANDERS THAT ANY LIVE MINES WOULD HAVE BEEN DETONATED IN THE COURSE OF THE OPERATIONS CONDUCTED AND THAT BATTERY EXHAUSTION ACCOUNTS FOR THE LACK OF DETONATIONS.

3. VADM ZIKRY APPEARED PLEASED AT THE OVERALL RESULTS ACHIEVED AND EXPRESSED HIS DEEP APPARECIATION FOR THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE US NAVY. HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS PLEASANTLY SURPRISED THAT 99 PERCENT PROBABILITY OF MINE ACTUATION HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN EACH OF THE FIELDS AS OPPOSED TO ONLY 95 PERCENT WHICH HAD BEEN PROMISED. HE INQUIRED AS TO THE REASON FOR THE ADDITIONAL COVERAGE AND WAS TOLD THAT THIS EXTRA COVERAGE WAS DUE IN PART TO ADDITIONAL EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN AS A RESULT OF THE LACK OF DETONATIONS. HE DID INDICATE SOME RESERVATIONS DERIVING FROM THE NECHES INCIDENT BUT APPEARED SATISFIED THAT A THOROUGH JOB HAD BEEN DONE. IT WAS EXPLAINED TO ADM ZIKRY THAT THERE REMAINS A REMOTE POSSIBILITY OF A SPURIOUS DETONATION DUE TO RESIDUAL ELECTRICAL ENERGY IN DEPLETED MINE BATTERIES AND HE INDICATED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THIS AND UNDERSTOOD ALSO THAT MINES COULD BE DETONATED BY SUCH OCCURANCES AS DREDGING OR BEING STRUCK BY A SHIP'S ANCHOR. AT NO TIME WAS ANY GUARANTEE MADE THAT THE SWEPT AREA IS SAFE FOR NAVIGATION NOR WAS ANY REQUEST MADE FOR ANY SUCH GUARANTEE. ADM ZIKRY INDICATED THAT HE THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD THAT NO MINESWEEPING EFFORT CAN EVER BE 100 PERCENT EFFECTIVE. HE MADE NO FIRM COMMITMENT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT GOE WILL REMOVE NAVIGATIONAL RESTRICTIONS CURRENTLY IN EFFECT FOR THE AREA SURROUNDING THE MINEFIELDS.

4. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT THE STATISTICAL SUMMARY,SIGNED BY CAPT STRATMANN, AND THE ACCOMPANYING VERBAL STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING DESCRIBED ABOVE CONSTITUTE AN ADEQUATE FINAL STATEMENT TO GOE RE NIMBUS STREAM AND UNLESS

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QUESTIONS ARE RAISED, PLANS NO FURTHER COMMUNICATION ON THE SUBJECT TO GOE.
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